

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05819 152255Z
ACTION ARA-14

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 5819

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, PN
SUBJECT: PRO-GOP LAWYER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PANAMANIAN BAR
ASSOCIATION BY NARROW MARGIN

REF: A. PANAMA 5052, B. PANAMA 5086

1. "CRITICA" OF 13 AUGUST REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT THE ELECT-
ION OF ATTORNEY LUIS SHIRLEY AS PRESIDENT OF THE PANAMANIAN
COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS, THE LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION. SHIRLEY
DEFEATED HIS OPPONENT DR. FABIAN ECHEVERS, BY 340 TO 325.

2. COMMENT: THE NARROW VICTORY OF PRO-GOP LAWYER SHIRLEY,
A FORMER VICE MINISTER OF LABOR, OVER ECHEVERS, ONE
OF THE LEADERS OF THE "INDEPENDENT LAWYERS MOVEMENT" (SEE
REFTEL (A), INDICATES THE STRENGTH OF ANTI-TREATY FORCES
AMONG LAWYERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TREATY WAS FOREMOST
IN THE MINDS OF THE LAWYERS AS THEY VOTED, BUT CLEARLY
THERE WERE OTHER FACTORS. THEREFORE, THE VOTE IS NOT TO
BE TAKEN AS A MINI-PLEBISCITE OF LAWYERS ON THE TREATY.

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Message Attributes

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